

pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DEFEND THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SUPPLY SYSTEM FROM INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE AND TERRORIST THREATS

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 24

Whereas the President has begun to implement programs to protect the critical infrastructures of the United States from attack;

Whereas the American agricultural and food supply system, a highly technological and efficient system for growing, processing, distributing, and marketing food and other agricultural products for the world market, is vulnerable to threats and attacks, particularly threats and attacks employing weapons, technologies, and materials of mass destruction;

Whereas the American agricultural and food supply system has not been included in counterterrorism planning;

Whereas critical infrastructure protection efforts must include response planning for potential threats and attacks on the American agricultural and food supply system;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture must play an active role in the counterterrorism and critical infrastructure preparedness plans of the United States; and

Whereas a successful strategy for protection of the American agricultural and food supply system must also include cooperation with State and local authorities and the private sector: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should take steps that are necessary to protect the American agricultural and food supply system from attacks, particularly attacks employing weapons, technologies, and materials of mass destruction; and

(2) the Department of Agriculture should take the lead in protecting the American agricultural and food supply system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 75—RECONSTITUTING THE SENATE ARMS CONTROL OBSERVER GROUP AS THE SENATE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP AND REVISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE GROUP

Mr. LOTT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 75

Resolved, That Senate Resolution 105 of the One Hundred First Congress, agreed to April 13, 1989, as amended by Senate Resolution 149 of the One Hundred Third Congress, agreed

to October 5, 1993, is further amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (a) of the first section, by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Senate Arms Control Observer Group, which was previously constituted and authorized by the authority described in paragraph (2), is hereby reconstituted and reauthorized as the Senate National Security Working Group (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the ‘Working Group’).”.

(2) By striking “Observer Group” each place it appears in the resolution, except paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the first section, and inserting “Working Group”.

(3) By striking “Group” in the second sentence of section 3(a) and inserting “Working Group”.

(4) By striking paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of the first section and inserting the following:

“(3)(A) The members of the Working Group shall act as official observers on the United States delegation to any negotiations, to which the United States is a party, on any of the following:

“(i) Reduction, limitation, or control of conventional weapons, weapons of mass destruction, or the means for delivery of any such weapons.

“(ii) Reduction, limitation, or control of missile defenses.

“(iii) Export controls.

“(B) In addition, the Working Group is encouraged to consult with legislators of foreign nations, including the members of the State Duma and Federal Council of the Russian Federation and, as appropriate, legislators of other foreign nations, regarding matters described in subparagraph (A).

“(C) The Working Group is not authorized to investigate matters relating to espionage or intelligence operations against the United States, counterintelligence operations and activities, or other intelligence matters within the jurisdiction of the Select Committee on Intelligence under Senate Resolution 400 of the Ninety-Fourth Congress, agreed to on May 19, 1976.”.

(5) In paragraph (4) of subsection (a) of the first section—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “Five” in the matter preceding clause (i) and inserting “Seven”;

(ii) by striking “two” in clause (ii) and inserting “three”; and

(iii) by striking “two” in clause (iii) and inserting “three”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Six” and inserting “Five”; and

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking “Seven” and inserting “Six”.

(6) In section 2(b)(3), by striking “five”.

(7) In the second sentence of section 3(a)—

(A) by striking “\$380,000” and inserting “\$500,000”; and

(B) by striking “except that not more than” and inserting “of which not more than”.

(8) By striking section 4.

(9) By amending the title to read as follows: “Resolution reconstituting the Senate Arms Control Observer Group as the Senate National Security Working Group, and revising the authority of the Group.”.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

ROTH (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 176

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. FRIST, Mr. KERREY, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MACK, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRAMS, and Mr. ASHCROFT) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 20) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2000 through 2009; as follows:

At the end of title III, insert the following:

SEC. ____ SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE MODERNIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The health insurance coverage provided under the medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) is an integral part of the financial security for retired and disabled individuals, as such coverage protects those individuals against the financially ruinous costs of a major illness.

(2) Expenditures under the medicare program for hospital, physician, and other essential health care services that are provided to nearly 39,000,000 retired and disabled individuals will be \$232,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2000.

(3) During the nearly 35 years since the medicare program was established, the Nation's health care delivery and financing system has undergone major transformations. However, the medicare program has not kept pace with such transformations.

(4) Former Congressional Budget Office Director Robert Reischauer has described the medicare program as it exists today as failing on the following 4 key dimensions (known as the “Four I’s”):

(A) The program is inefficient.

(B) The program is inequitable.

(C) The program is inadequate.

(D) The program is insolvent.

(5) The President's budget framework does not devote 15 percent of the budget surpluses to the medicare program. The federal budget process does not provide a mechanism for setting aside current surpluses for future obligations. As a result, the notion of saving 15 percent of the surplus for the medicare program cannot practically be carried out.

(6) The President's budget framework would transfer to the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund more than \$900,000,000,000 over 15 years in new IOUs that must be redeemed later by raising taxes on American workers, cutting benefits, or borrowing more from the public, and these new IOUs would increase the gross debt of the Federal Government by the amounts transferred.

(7) The Congressional Budget Office has stated that the transfers described in paragraph (6), which are strictly intragovernmental, have no effect on the unified budget surpluses or the on-budget surpluses and therefore have no effect on the debt held by the public.

(8) The President's budget framework does not provide access to, or financing for, prescription drugs.